Jim Henson's™

THE STORYTELLER™

Tale Three of Four

Tricksters

ARCHAIA™

AMAL EL-MOHTAR
ISA HANSSEN

A Tale of Two Markets

Story by
Amal El-Mohtar

Art by
Isa Hanssen

Letters by
Jim Campbell

Cover by
Peach Momoko

Variant Covers by
Dani Pendergast
Peach Momoko

Spot Illustration by **Sonny Liew**

Designer
Michelle Ankley

Assistant Editor
Allyson Gronowitz

Editor
Sierra Hahn

Special Thanks to Brian Henson, Lisa Henson, Jim Formanek, Nicole Goldman, Carla DellaVedova, Karen Falk, Blanca Lista, Shannon Robles, the entire Jim Henson Company team, Wendy Froud, and Brian Froud.

Jim Henson's™
THE STORYTELLER™
Tricksters

ARCHAIA™

Jim Henson™
THE JIM HENSON COMPANY

JIM HENSON'S THE STORYTELLER: Tricksters No. 3 (of 4), May 2021. Published by Archaia, a division of Boom Entertainment, Inc., 5670 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 400, Los Angeles, CA 90036-5679. ™ & © 2021 The Jim Henson Company. JIM HENSON'S mark & logo, THE STORYTELLER mark & logo, and all related characters and elements are trademarks of The Jim Henson Company. All rights reserved. Archaia™ and the Archaia logo are trademarks of Boom Entertainment, Inc., registered in various countries and categories. All characters, events, and institutions depicted herein are fictional. Any similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, events, and/or institutions in this publication to actual names, characters, and persons, whether living or dead, events, and/or institutions is unintended and purely coincidental.
PRINTED IN CANADA.

SNIFF SNIFF SNIFF

Ah, IT'S GOOD TO GET OUT OF THE HOUSE, ISN'T IT?

PEARS, PEARS, FOR A FINE PAIR OF TRAVELERS!

NO, THANK YOU.

SNIFF

HOW ABOUT FIGS? DRIED OR FRESH!

THANK YOU, NO.

THEN HOW ABOUT...

...DOG TREATS?

WHY, I HAVE TREATS TO MAKE A DOG'S COAT ***GLEAM*** LIKE GOLD AND SILK!

MY TREATS WILL GROW A DOG'S TEETH INTO ***DRAGON'S FANGS,*** HIS CLAWS TO MIGHTY TALONS!

MY TREATS WILL GIVE A DOG'S LIMBS THE ***STRENGTH*** OF SEVEN LIONS!

DON'T BE TAKEN IN, MY FRIEND. I KNOW A TELLER OF ***TALL TALES*** WHEN I SEE ONE.

I'd be happy with a treat to fill a dog's belly...

YOUR BELLY DESERVES BETTER! HOW ABOUT I TELL YOU A PROPER STORY INSTEAD?

I'M REMINDED OF ANOTHER MARKET, AND ANOTHER TELLER OF TALES...

HIS NAME WAS ***REYNARD,*** AND HE WAS A WILY FOX OF A FELLOW-- BUT AT THE BEGINNING OF ***THIS*** TALE, REYNARD...

...WAS SOMEWHAT INDISPOSED.

I SAY...

POKE POKE

IS THAT YOU, REYNARD?

STORK? WHEN DID YOU GET SO TALL?

...I ASSURE YOU MY HEIGHT IS UNCHANGED SINCE OUR LAST MEETING.

YOU, HOWEVER, ARE IN A DITCH.

IS THAT SO?

WELL, HAVE YOU BROUGHT ANY BREAK-FAST?

NO. I HAVEN'T TIME FOR YOUR NONSENSE, REYNARD--I'M OFF TO THE MARKET.

Oh? BUYING OR SELLING?

SELLING--

--I'M CLEARING SOME BOOKS FROM MY LIBRARY.

STORYBOOKS?

Tsch. NO. **PROPER** BOOKS. BOOKS OF ***KNOWLEDGE.*** MEDICINE, SPECIFICALLY.

BUT STORIES ARE MEDICINE FOR THE SOUL!

THE SOUL HAS NOT BEEN PROVEN CONCLUSIVELY TO EXIST.

WELL, PERHAPS I'LL HEAD TO YOUR MARKET MYSELF! PERHAPS I'LL SELL MORE THAN ***YOU!***

SELL WHAT? THE HOLES IN YOUR POCKETS? THE BREATH IN YOUR LUNGS?

YOU'D DO BETTER TO FIND A DAY'S HONEST WORK.

YOU CAN'T MAKE MONEY OUT OF AIR ANY MORE THAN YOU CAN MAKE SOUP FROM A STONE.

OF COURSE, REYNARD **HAD** MADE SOUP FROM A STONE BEFORE, AND A VERY GOOD SOUP IT WAS--HEARTY AND RICH WITH WHAT HE'D CONNIVED FROM A STINGY, OLD MAN'S LARDER.

BUT THAT'S ANOTHER TALE, AND REYNARD, WILY AS HE WAS, HATED TO PLAY THE SAME TRICK TWICE.

(THAT TENDENCY GOT HIM IN TROUBLE MORE THAN ONCE--BUT THOSE, TOO, ARE OTHER TALES.)

THERE ARE SO MANY STORIES ABOUT REYNARD...

...MORE STORIES THAN A SHARK HAS TEETH.

TODAY, HE'D SELL HIS BREATH...

...MAKE MONEY FROM A STONE...

...AND PROVE STORK WRONG BESIDES.

AHEM!

FRIENDS, STRANGERS, FELLOW TRAVELERS!

I'VE JOURNEYED FAR AND WIDE, AND SUFFERED GRAVE MISFORTUNE, ALL TO BRING YOU ***TREASURES*** FROM A DISTANT LAND!

BUT WHY SHOULD YOU LISTEN TO ***ME?*** I'M A MESS. OF COURSE, THERE'S A GOOD REASON FOR THAT, AND THAT REASON IS...

...I ROBBED A ***GIANT!***

BEHOLD, THE GIANT'S TREASURE! ***COLT EGGS!*** KEEP THEM WARM IN THIS CLOTH AND BY MY RECKONING, YOU'LL HAVE THREE HEALTHY COLTS IN A WEEK!

BUT BEWARE--REMOVE THEM BEFORE THEY HATCH, AND YOU'LL HOLD NOTHING BUT THREE ROUND STONES.

YOU THERE-- DISCERNING LADY WITH THE SPLENDID TAIL!

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU HAVE A BID!

I'VE GOT TEN COPPER COINS AND A PAIR OF STURDY BOOTS--

SOLD!

IN HARDLY ANY TIME AT ALL, REYNARD HAD TURNED THE BREATH FROM HIS LUNGS INTO BRIGHT COPPER COINS.

HE THOUGHT OF FINDING STORK TO GLOAT...

...BUT THE DAY WAS STILL YOUNG, AND REYNARD WAS JUST GETTING STARTED.

HE USED SOME OF HIS COINS TO BUY A LOVELY PIE AND AN EVEN LOVELIER CLOTH WITH WHICH TO COVER IT.

THEN HE WENT BACK TO WORK.

FRIENDS, STRANGERS, FELLOW TRAVELERS! HERE IS ANOTHER TREASURE FROM THE GIANT'S HOARD-- ***MURMURING PIE!***

KEEP IT WRAPPED TIGHT UNTIL THE FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN, THEN MAKE A WISH--A FLOCK OF ***STARLINGS*** WILL BURST OUT AND MAKE YOUR WISH COME TRUE!

BUT BEWARE--IF YOU UNWRAP THE PIE BEFORE THE APPOINTED TIME, IT WILL NEVER MURMUR, AND WILL SIMPLY BE DELICIOUS.

YOU THERE, WITH THE ELEGANT EARS! WHAT DO YOU BID?

...ENOUGH FOR REYNARD TO BUY A NEW SET OF CLOTHES.

RABBIT BOUGHT THE PIE FOR A TIDY SUM...

IMAGINE WANTING CLOTHES MORE THAN A PIE! PIES ARE BETTER THAN CLOTHES.

Mm. WELL, IT'S GOOD TO VALUE THE IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE.

clink

THINGS LIKE STORIES, FOR EXAMPLE, AND ALL THE DIFFERENT WAYS OF TELLING THEM.

Hmph. SO WHAT WAS STORK UP TO ALL THIS TIME?

AH YES, STORK. HE WAS HAVING A QUIET DAY.

EXCUSE ME?

YES?

I'VE A BIT OF A PAIN IN MY FOOT-- WILL THIS HELP CURE IT?

THAT WILL DEPEND ON THE SOURCE OF THE PAIN. YOU SEE, BEFORE YOU CAN UNDERSTAND A MALADY ENOUGH TO CURE IT, YOU MUST HAVE A PASSING KNOWLEDGE OF THE HUMORS--

--BLACK BILE, YELLOW BILE, PHLEGM, AND BLOOD, OR MORE CORRECTLY, IN THE GREEK, ΜΈΛΑΙΝΑ ΧΟΛΉ, ΞΑΝΘΌΝ ΧΟΛΉ, ΦΛΈΓΜΑ...

...AND ὕΔΩΡ--oh, er. GOOD DAY!

RATHER QUIET IN THE MARKET TODAY.

ALTHOUGH... WHAT COULD BE GOING ON OVER THERE?

FRIENDS, STRANGERS, FELLOW TRAVELERS!

THIS IS THE LAST OF THE GIANT'S TREASURES. WITHIN THIS SACK ARE CAPTURED THE FOUR WINDS!

EXCUSE ME--

PARDON-- EXCUSE ME-- SORRY--

REYNARD! WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS? WHAT ARE YOU DOING!

STORK, MY GOOD FRIEND! WHY, I'M SELLING THE WIND, AS YOU SUGGESTED--AND MUCH MORE BESIDES!

HE SOLD ME A MAGICAL PIE THAT WILL GRANT MY HEART'S FONDEST WISH!

HE SOLD ME COLT EGGS! AT A VERY REASONABLE PRICE!

STUFF AND NONSENSE! GIVE ME THAT!

FWIP

BEHOLD WHAT THIS CHARLATAN SOLD YOU! PLAIN ***STONES!***

HOW DARE YOU! SCOUNDREL! YOU'VE GONE AND RUINED MY INVESTMENT! REYNARD SAID THIS WOULD HAPPEN!

BUT-- BUT I--

GIVE ME THAT PIE!

HEY!

SEE? JUST A REGULAR PIE! DELICIOUS, PERHAPS--BUT NOT MAGICAL!

THIEF! HOW DARE YOU! REYNARD SAID THIS WOULD HAPPEN!

I DEMAND COMPENSATION!

BUT--HE LIED TO YOU! THESE ARE JUST ORDINARY OBJECTS!

MAGIC ISN'T REAL!

WHAT ELSE CAN I--*Ah*. OF COURSE.

GIVE ME THAT! I'LL PROVE ONCE AND FOR ALL THAT YOU'RE A LIAR AND A CHEAT!

CAREFUL, MY FRIEND--

--OPENING THAT SACK WILL UNLEASH ALL FOUR WINDS AT ONCE, AND SUMMON A STORM TO DROWN THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD!

:gulp:

THE SKY! IT'S DARKENING!

I THINK I HEAR THUNDER!

I THINK I SMELL RAIN!

ROT AND RUBBISH! LOOK, THERE'S NOTHING--

HE'S OPENING THE BAG!
STOP HIM!
GRAB HIM, QUICK!
BAH! UNHAND ME, YOU FOOLS!
SIX SILVER CROWNS OR I'LL HAVE THEM OUT OF YOUR HIDE!
TEN COPPER PIECES AND A STURDY PAIR OF BOOTS, AND NOT A PENNY LESS, YOU HEAR? I HAD *GREAT* PLANS FOR THOSE COLTS!
OTTER! YOU SAIL THE SEAS--WHAT SAY YOU TO A SACK OF STRONG WIND?
I SAY THAT SOUNDS MIGHTY FINE.
HAVING SOLD THE LAST OF HIS WARES, REYNARD BOUGHT HIMSELF A DASHING HAT...
...AND WALKED OFF, WELL PLEASED, INTO THE WARM SUMMER EVENING.

THAT'S IT?

POOR STORK HAD TO PAY THOSE PEOPLE BACK, AND REYNARD GOT AWAY FREE AND CLEAR? THAT'S NOT FAIR!

THE WORLD SELDOM IS, MY FRIEND.

BUT DON'T WORRY. REYNARD WAS JUST AS GOOD AT GETTING HIMSELF **INTO** TROUBLE AS HE WAS AT GETTING HIMSELF OUT OF IT, AND TALL TALES HAVE A WAY OF CATCHING UP WITH THEIR TELLERS. IN FACT...

REYNARD.

...THE TALLER THE TALE...

...THE QUICKER THE STRIDE.

HEARD YOU'VE BEEN ROBBING GIANTS.

BUT THAT'S A STORY FOR ANOTHER DAY. THE POINT IS, REYNARD TOLD GREAT STORIES, AND STORK TOLD PLAIN FACTS, BUT NEITHER OF THEM WAS A ***STORYTELLER.***

:SNIFF:

REYNARD'S STORIES WERE LIES TO CHEAT AND SWINDLE PEOPLE. A REAL STORYTELLER ONLY USES LIES TO TELL THE TRUTH.

A REAL STORYTELLER-- ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING?

I'M VERY INTERESTED. IT'S JUST, THAT SMELL-- IT'S DELICIOUS--

YOU'RE RIGHT, THAT SMELLS DELIGHTFUL.

IT'S COMING FROM THAT PIE STALL!

WELL, WE SHOULD INVESTIGATE. LEAD THE WAY, MY FRIEND.

PIES FOR SALE, PIES FOR SALE! MEAT FOR A TREAT, CHEESE IF YOU PLEASE!

NO PIES LIKE MY SISTER'S PIES ON THIS SIDE OF PARADISE!

FATAYER! WHEN I EAT THEM, IT'S LIKE THERE'S A PALACE ON MY TONGUE FULL OF FINE DANCING!

DON'T THEY SMELL SO GOOD THAT YOU COULD JUST FLOAT AWAY ON A CLOUD OF YOUR OWN HAPPINESS?

THEY DO INDEED. TWO, PLEASE, FOR MY FRIEND AND ME.

THE END.

BOOM! STUDIOS™

NEW RELEASES

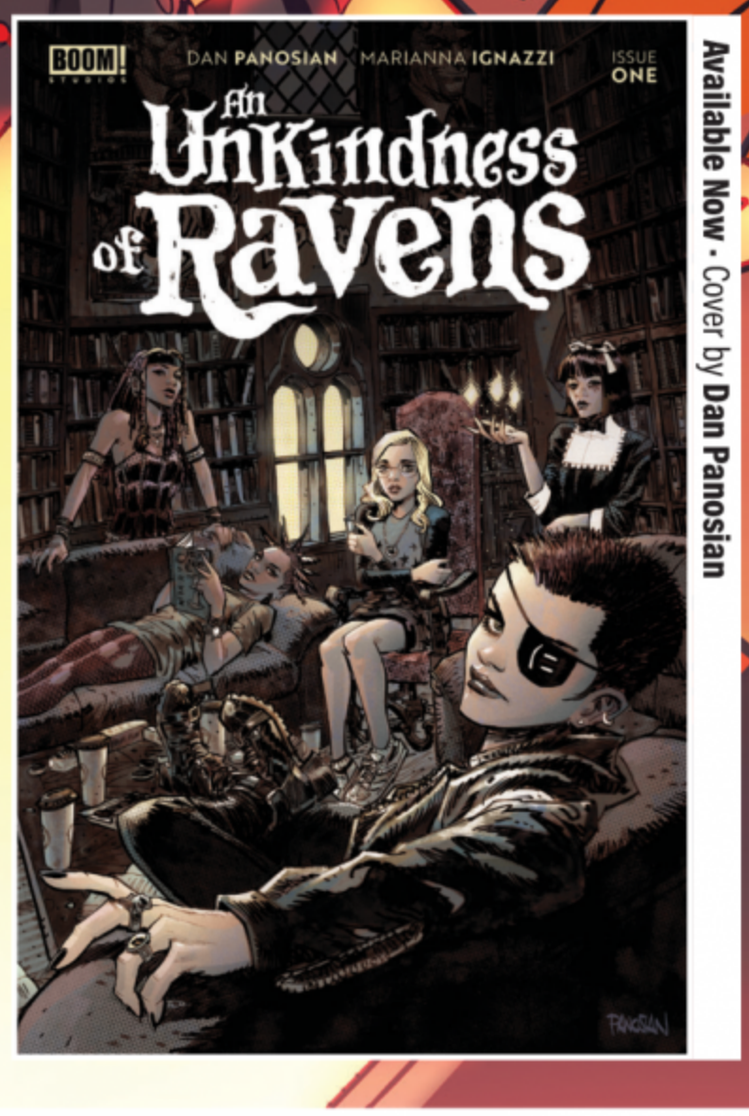
"EVERYTHING YOU COULD WANT FROM A COMIC BOOK. TRULY."

—SCOTT SNYDER, *BATMAN*

FROM **TOM TAYLOR** *(DCEASED)*
AND **DANIELE DI NICUOLO**
(MIGHTY MORPHIN POWER RANGERS)

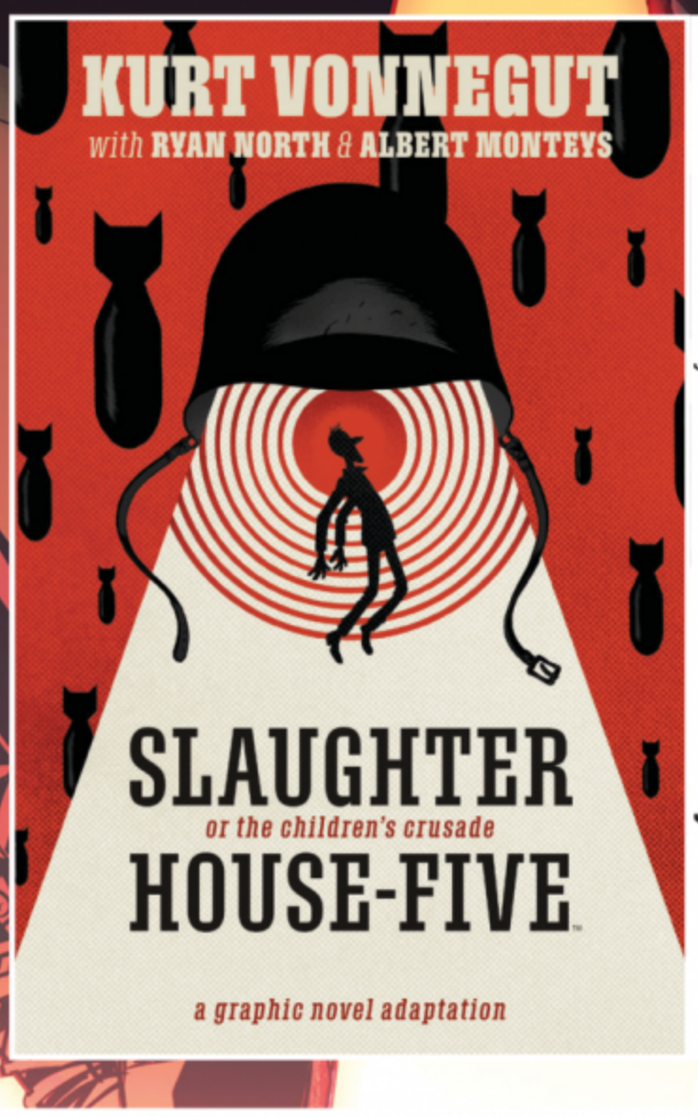
SEVEN SECRETS

AVAILABLE NOW COVER BY **DANIELE DI NICUOLO**



Available Now • Cover by **Dan Panosian**

Available Now • Cover by **Simone Di Meo**



Available Now • Cover by **Scott Newman & Albert Monteys**

BOOM! STUDIOS **DISCOVER** YOURS

/BOOMStudiosComics /boomstudios /boom_studios boomstudios.

Ross Richie CEO & Founder • **Joy Huffman** CFO • **Matt Gagnon** Editor-in-Chief • **Filip Sablik** President, Publishing & Marketing • **Stephen Christy** President, Development • **Lance Kreiter** Vice President, Licensing & Merchandising • **Bryce Carlson** Vice President, Editorial & Creative Strategy • **Kate Henning** Director, Operations **Spencer Simpson** Director, Sales • **Scott Newman** Manager, Production Design • **Elyse Strandberg** Manager, Finance • **Sierra Hahn** Executive Editor • **Dafna Pleban** Senior Editor • **Shannon Watters** Senior Editor • **Eric Harburn** Senior Editor • **Sophie Philips-Roberts** Associate Editor • **Amanda LaFranco** Associate Editor **Jonathan Manning** Associate Editor • **Gavin Gronenthal** Assistant Editor • **Gwen Waller** Assistant Editor • **Allyson Gronowitz** Assistant Editor • **Ramiro Portnoy** Assistant Editor • **Kenzie Rzonca** Assistant Editor • **Shelby Netschke** Editorial Assistant • **Michelle Ankley** Design Lead • **Marie Krupina** Production Designer **Grace Park** Production Designer • **Chelsea Roberts** Production Designer • **Samantha Knapp** Production Design Assistant • **José Meza** Live Events Lead • **Stephanie Hocutt** Digital Marketing Lead • **Esther Kim** Marketing Lead • **Breanna Sarpy** Live Events Coordinator • **Amanda Lawson** Marketing Assistant **Morgan Perry** Retail Sales Lead • **Holly Aitchison** Digital Sales Coordinator • **Megan Christopher** Operations Coordinator • **Rodrigo Hernandez** Operations Coordinator • **Zipporah Smith** Operations Coordinator • **Jason Lee** Senior Accountant • **Sabrina Lesin** Accounting Assistant • **Lauren Alexander** Administrative Assistant

Return to Brakebills in an all-new series based on *New York Times* bestseller Lev Grossman's world of *The Magicians*, with award-winning writer Lilah Sturges and artist Pius Bak.

THE MAGICIANS™

ARCHAIA™ **DISCOVER** YOURS

IN STORES **NOW**

WWW.**BOOM-STUDIOS**.COM

The Magicians © 2021 Lev Grossman. All rights reserved.